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## MI6 spy found with child porn on his computer spared prosecution





An MI6 agent found with child pornography on his work computer was not prosecuted by the CPS

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By **Jamie Johnson**

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**A**n MI6 agent found with child pornography on his work computer was not prosecuted by the CPS, an intelligence official has revealed to an inquiry into child sexual abuse.

The discovery of illegal material resulted in the officer losing his job and being charged with two counts of possession of indecent images, but the charges were dropped after the prosecution offered no evidence.

MI6 were apparently frustrated at the decision and would rather have “seen the prosecution through.”

The incident, which took place in 2006, came to light as part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

Speaking anonymously via a videolink fed into the Inquiry’s south London hearing centre, the serving Secret Intelligence Service official described his role in the agency as “overseeing the teams that manage the compliance policies and activities for SIS operations.”

He said: “When this material was discovered, it was preserved and we conducted an internal investigation to find out which employee or employees might have been responsible for putting this material onto the computer.

“We then passed the details of the material and the potential suspects to the police, the child protection unit, and a police investigation followed.

“This confirmed that the images were illegal and it identified the SIS officer who was most likely to be responsible for downloading them.

“That individual was then dismissed from SIS and he was charged with two counts of possessing indecent images of children on their workplace computer.

## What is the difference between MI5 and MI6?

MI5 and MI6 (SIS, the Secret Intelligence Service) are both intelligence agencies, but they do different things.

MI5 is responsible for protecting the UK, its citizens and interests, at home and overseas, against threats to national security. SIS is responsible for gathering intelligence outside the UK in support of the government's security, defence, foreign and economic policies.

MI5 is answerable to the Home Secretary (see Law and governance). SIS is answerable to the Foreign Secretary.

MI5's headquarters are at Thames House, London. SIS' headquarters are at Vauxhall Cross, London.

The officer giving evidence said that necessary access was provided to the prosecution to allow other SIS officers to give evidence at the trial, but that: “Ultimately the prosecutor decided to offer no evidence against the defendant following an abuse of process application.

“SIS was not involved in that decision,” he said.

“That was purely made by the prosecutors at the time, and we actually wrote to the Crown Prosecution Service to explain - to express our disappointment that that was the case.

“Our preference would have been to see the prosecution through.”

It also emerged that MI6 had a file on former diplomat Sir Peter Hayman in which he was described as “an unpleasant and pompous man who used to like playing Father Christmas in Ottawa so that he could dandle children on his knee”.

Sir Peter had previously been named as the subject of a Home Office file concerning "unnatural sexual proclivities".

It was already known that police questioned Sir Peter in 1978 after he accidentally left a package of indecent images on a bus.

The parcel was addressed to a flat he rented in Notting Hill, west London, and it led officers to find a large collection of similar material at the property.

However, Sir Peter was never prosecuted, leading to claims that his offences were covered up due to his diplomatic role and alleged connections with MI6.

The SIS official offering evidence to IICSA said a note dated 1990 described Sir Peter as “an unpleasant and pompous man who used to like playing father christmas in Ottawa so that he could dandle children on his knee” in an official intelligence document.

It is understood that this note related to Sir Peter’s time as high commissioner in Ottawa between 1970 and 1974.

“This is the only information we found in our searches relating to Sir Peter Hayman. We had nothing else on our files that explained the

context for that comment or why it was made, or any other detail supporting any other aspects of allegations made against Sir Peter Hayman,” said the SIS officer.

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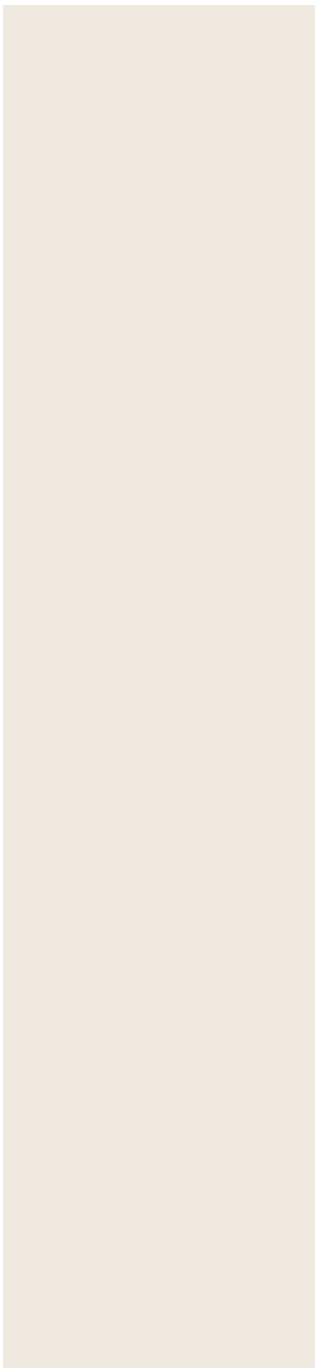
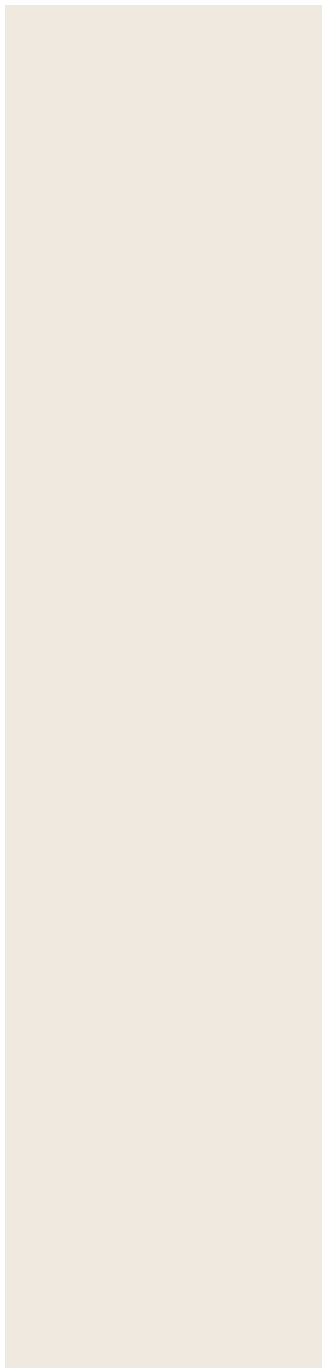
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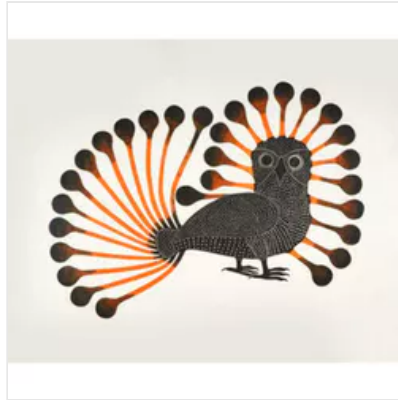
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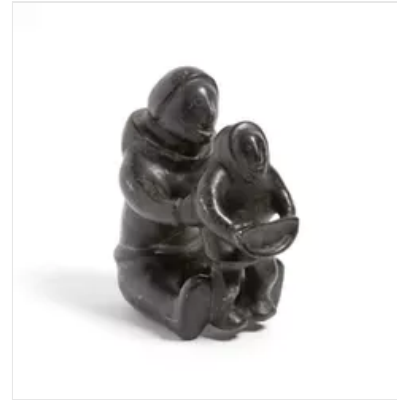
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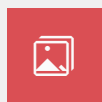
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